

**A. Amendments to the Specification**

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 8, as follows:

--The input and output fibers preferably are made of single mode optical fiber.

Alternatively, they can be made of multimode fiber. In a preferred embodiment, a collimator is connected to the end of each of the input and output fibers, between the fibers and the prism.

These collimators preferably are made of a gradient index optical fiber. In an alternate embodiment, a collimator is connected to only one of the input and output fibers. In another alternate embodiment, a focusing lens is connected to only one of the input and output fibers via an intervening optical coupler, such as a section of coreless fiber or an optical gel appropriately formed for this purpose. Where an optical gel is used, it should be index-matched to the cladding of the fiber(s) it is connected to. That is, the refractive index of the optical gel should be substantially the same as the refractive index of the cladding of the fiber it is connected to.